

STANISLAUS COUNTY
CHILDREN
& FAMILIES
COMMISSION

MEMBERS:

Beatrice Acosta
Representative
District 4

Nathaniel Green
Chair
Representative
District 5

Dr. Larry Poaster
Community Services
Agency

Pat Paul
Supervisor
District 1

Sallie Perez
Vice Chair
Representative
District 2

Dan Souza
Behavioral Health &
Recovery Services

John Walker, MD
Public Health Officer

Kathy Kohrman
Health Services Agency

Representative
District 3

Noe Paramo
Executive Director

830 Scenic Drive
Modesto, CA 95350
209-558-6218

Commission Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2002
Great Valley Center
Board Room
915 13th Street
Modesto, Ca.

Members Present: Nathaniel Green, Chair, Sallie Perez, Vice Chair, Bea Acosta, John Walker, M.D., Kathy Kohrman, Pat Paul, and Dan Souza.

Members Absent: Dr. Larry Poaster, Ph.D.

Staff Present: Noe Paramo, Executive Director, Dan Rosas, Staff Services Coordinator, and Mick Krausnick, Counsel.

- I. Meeting called to order by Chair Green.
- II. Public Comment
Debbie Parr Noblitt with the CARES Project updated the Commission on the program aimed at helping retain childcare providers in Stanislaus County. Stipend checks have already been mailed out to eligible providers.
- III. Consent Calendar
 - A. * Approved Minutes from March 26, 2002
 - B. * Approved Correspondence.
Commissioner Souza moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paul and unanimously approved by the Commission.
- IV. Agenda Items
 - C. Dennis Sigona and staff with the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) provided the Commission with an update and recommendations on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Early Childcare and Development program. Community meetings are scheduled to inform the public about the RFP and how to fill out the application. Commissioners asked several questions. Among them was concern that the application may be intimidating and that it may prove difficult for

grassroots organizations to fill out. Other commissioners voiced similar concerns including community outreach and linkages to services such as health insurance. Commissioner Kohrman was asked to draft language for the RFP that would include information to link applicants with access to health insurance enrollment. Commissioners were instructed to submit clarifying language with suggested changes to Executive Director Paramo who in turn will work with SCOE. There was also an update given for the Alternative Payment Program. Lisa Henry with SCOE told commissioners that advertisements in English, Spanish, and Assyrian had been completed and a waiting list of eligible families had been established. Vice Chair Perez moved that the recommendations for the Early Childcare and Development program be approved with Commissioner Walker seconding the motion. The Commission approved the motion unanimously.

- D. The Commission discussed recommendations for the School Readiness Initiative (SRI), a California Children and Families Commission program aimed at helping children in low performing schools. Staff Services Coordinator Rosas informed the Commission that meetings have been held with five school districts interested in participating in the state matching fund program. Rosas told the group that, given budget cutbacks in their districts, schools had requested the Commission provide matching monies to get the programs started. Staff had recommended that \$1.1 to \$2.2 million be set aside with implementation money from the state to be used to hire a School Readiness Coordinator and a Grant Writer. The Commission acknowledged the district's financial concerns and asked staff to provide them with a budget to determine how much Prop. 10 money would be left in the Commission fund if monies were committed for School Readiness. Commissioners did agree on the S.R. concept and advised staff to submit an application of commitment to the state. Vice Chair Perez made the motion that was seconded by Commissioner Walker. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. The Commission discussed a request for funding from the city of Riverbank. The city had requested \$5,000 to continue its "Tot Time" program aimed at socializing toddlers. City Manager Rich Holmer and parents of children enrolled in the program told Commissioners that the program had exceeded expectations and there was a gap in funding. Commissioners were asked to provide financial help until July when the city would have the money to pay for the program. Commissioner Paul moved that the \$5,000 request be granted. Commissioner Souza seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- F. The Commission discussed a funding request for \$5,000 from Community Organization Promoting Advancement and Leadership (COPAL). Commissioner Walker expressed concern that the new organization did not have a track record and asked that staff contact the organization for further information about its goals and how they relate to the 0-5-target group of Prop. 10. Commissioner Walker moved that the request be denied and that staff provide information to COPAL about the Prop. 10 mission. Chair Green seconded the motion. The commission was unanimous in its vote.
- G. The Commission discussed current vacancies. One is the seat for District 3 in which a community representative is sought. Five people submitted applications of interest for the position. Staff was instructed to provide the names to the administrative committee and report back to the Commission on their recommendations. The Commission also discussed the new "education/schools" position established by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. County Superintendent Martin Petersen submitted his name for consideration. Commissioner Kohrman

moved that Petersen's name be accepted and recommended to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for approval. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion that was unanimously passed by the Commission.

- V. Commission Reports/Announcements
There were no reports or announcements.
- VI. Chair Green adjourned the Commission meeting at 5:10 pm.